Strategies for Strengthening Partnerships in Eng and CS Workforce Development Efforts

Presenter Biographies

Meaghan Pearson, Ph.D.
Dr. Meaghan Pearson is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science at The University of Texas at Dallas. Her research examines how organizations inside of STEM ecosystems can cultivate environments that are more affirming, safe, and supportive, particularly for those who find themselves on the margins.

Florence E. Castillo, Ph.D.
Dr. Florence "Emily" Castillo completed her Ph.D. in Sociology with a focus on Race & Ethnicity and Education at the University of New Mexico. Her recent work is focused on the science of team science, and she engages in education research-practice partnerships (RPPs) focused on questions critical to the partner districts with which she works. Her research is intersectional and informed by Black and Chicana feminist theories with a focus on employing and advocating for Indigenous methodologies in sociological research. Dr. Castillo's dissertation focused on understanding how grassroots educational justice groups mobilize to resist whiteness in racialized organizations such as school districts. Currently she is also focused on research around the impacts of immigration enforcement on student enrollment, success, and education completion.

Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASEE
Dr. Yvette E. Pearson is Associate Dean for Effectiveness & Accountability in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives in the School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics at The University of Texas at Dallas. She founded The PEER Group, a consulting firm that helps STEM organizations understand organizational challenges, evaluate programs, and navigate change and continuous improvement. A Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the American Society for Engineering Education, she is recognized globally, particularly for her work to advance sustainability, access, and opportunity in STEM education and practice.

Pearson is a registered Professional Engineer, an ENVISION® Sustainability Professional, and a member of the Executive Committee for ABET's Engineering Accreditation Commission. Among her awards and honors are ABET's Claire L. Felbinger Award for Diversity and Inclusion, the Society of Women Engineers' Distinguished Engineering Educator Award, and ASCE's Professional Practice Ethics and Leadership Award. She also received the 2021 President's Medal and the 2026 Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award in Education, two of the highest honors conferred by ASCE, an ABET member society of more than 160,000 civil engineers globally. Her podcast, ENGINEERING CH∆NGE®, has audiences in over 100 countries.

Sherri S. Frizell, Ph.D.
Dr. Sherri S. Frizell is a Professor and Associate Department Head of Computer Science at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU). She earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Jackson State University and a master's and Ph.D. in computer science and software engineering from Auburn University.

Dr. Frizell's research interests include human-centered computing, socially responsible computing, and the persistence of African American and female students in engineering. She currently serves as Principal Investigator for the NSF project, Improving Access to Career and Educational Development for Talented, Low-Income Students through the Flexible Internships-Research-Education Model, which seeks to increase master's degree attainment and strengthen workforce development pathways in computer science and engineering for talented, low-income students. She leads the Undergraduate Research Academy for the PVAMU Center of Operational and Mission-driven Machine Learning for Advanced National Defense and serves on the Education and Outreach Team for the PVAMU Center for Energy & Environmental Sustainability.